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Varnish
Deviltries

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—DICTIONARY—
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VARNISH DEVILTRIES



HARRISON BROS. & CO., Inc.

Paint Colors Varnish
White Lead Chemicals

Philadelphia

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Varnish Deviltries

General Jan 37 Standard Devrilries

Blistering: The swelling out of parts of the varnish surface, after it is dry and hard, into bubbles or blisters, resembling pustules on the human skin. *Causes:* (1), Soft undercoats; (2), presence of oil or grease on the surface directly under the finishing coat; (3), presence of oil or grease between any of the previous coats of varnish or color, or between the priming coat and the wood itself; (4), exposure to excessive heat; (5), sap or dampness in the wood, especially in coach work, by water absorbed by the roughstuff during rubbing; and (6), nibs on wood and especially on canvas, in car work, that absorb more oil than the rest of the surface. *Cure:* The only cure is to rub down to the source of the trouble and revarnish or repaint from that point.

Blistering, Dry: A variety of blistering occurring without the influence of heat, due, it is thought, to the use of putty having insufficient binding quality.

Blooming: An atmospheric trouble, also variously known as "going cloudy," "smoky," "foggy," etc., which results in the varnished surface becoming obscured by a whitish or bluish film, suggesting the bloom on a plum, peach or cucumber. *Causes:* (1), An over-moist atmosphere, due either to the weather or to improper conditions in the varnish room, as a wet floor and no ventilation; and (2), smoke or sulphur fumes from the smithy shop. *Note 1:* The blooming of finishing coats is troublesome, and often necessitates rubbing down and revarnishing; but in flatting coats it is of little consequence. *Note 2:* The use of several coats of clear rubbing over a color coat which is not quite solid (referring to its covering quality) may produce an effect similar to blooming.

Blotching: Applied to exaggerated cases of "Pitting," which see.

Blubbering: Forming bubbles during the process of working the varnish. The cause is in the varnish itself, some makes

being worse than others in this respect. *Cure*: Lighty "knock off" the blubbers with the brush.

Bluing, or Turning Blue: Giving a bluish effect to the coloring beneath. Similar to "Greening," which see.

Brush-Marked: Showing ridges in the surface, left by the bristles of the brush when the varnish is over-dressed. *Causes*: (1), A non-flowing varnish; (2), use of too small brush; and (3), too much brushing. *Cure*: Plenty of pumice stone and water and "elbow grease."

Bubbling: Same as "Blubbering," which see.

Chilling: An effect on liquid varnish by recent exposure to extreme cold, which is liable to make it go "sandy," "seedy" or "specky." *Prevention*: Store the varnish in a warm place for several days before using. Have the varnish room warm; and have the job in it long enough to acquire the same temperature.

Chipping: The partial separation of one varnish coat from another or from a coat of color, or the similar separation of some preceding coat of paint or roughstuff, resulting in the varnish falling off in small chips or flakes. *Causes*: (1), Lack of harmony between the different coats in regard to elasticity, and the application either of an elastic over a too inelastic coat, or *vice versa*; (2), the chipping of color coats beneath the varnish that were imperfectly dried or had gloss; (3), grease or smoke from the smith-shop on undercoats; (4), the presence of alkali, as from washing with soapsuds, or from potash used to remove old paint; (5), admission of moisture along the edges of cracks, and consequent swelling of the wood; and (6), brittle japan in undercoats.

Note 1: It is easy to confound varnish chipping with paint chipping; if any undercoat, for any reason, loses its foothold, it is evident that the varnish must go with it. *Note 2*: The shop-terms "Chipping," "Flaking," and "Scaling," or "Peeling," denote relative degrees or stages of the same trouble.

Cloudy, Going: An atmospheric trouble, synonymous with "Blooming," which see.

Cobwebbed: Showing a mild form of enameling, the forms suggesting cobwebs. *Causes*: (1), Coal-gas from the stove;

(2), finishing over an undercoat not thoroughly dry ; (3), too dry a heat or too cold a varnish-room ; and (4), sudden atmospheric changes seem also to influence the varnish in this way.

Corduroying: Applied to exaggerated cases of "Enameling," which see ; while "Silking" is a milder form of the same trouble.

Cracking: The breaking up of a varnish surface into fragments, more or less minute, as of a looking-glass when fractured. *Causes*, which sufficiently suggest prevention : (1), Lack of harmony between the finishing coat and that of varnish or paint immediately preceding it ; (2), lack of harmony between preceding coats of varnish, which, if they crack, must necessarily tear apart the finishing coat also ; (3), lack of harmony between any of the coats of paint, roughstuff, filler or priming that form the groundwork ; (4), imperfectly dried preceding coats of varnish or color ; (5), destruction of the oily properties of the varnish by exposure to atmospheric influences, such as sudden change from heat to cold or undue exposure to the sun ; (6), the action of ammonia or other alkali ; (7), unsuitable driers in the varnish, or its imperfect manufacture ; and (8), excessive springing of the woodwork or ironwork in the immediate vicinity of the painting. *Note*, Cracks can seldom be filled so that they will not show themselves again in a short time ; and the only effectual way, in the case of surface cracks in the varnish coats is to "chisel" off the entire coats of varnish and then face down with lump pumice to the roughstuff or filler. If the cracks are found to extend into the roughstuff, there is nothing to do but to "burn off."

Crawling: Creeping away of varnish from portions of an undercoat that are for any reason repellent. *Cause 1:* Applying the varnish over an oily, glossy surface. *Prevention:* In case of a glossy color coat, moss off with curled hair and wipe with a moist sponge. In case of a glossy varnish coat, lightly flat with rag and pumice. *Cause 2:* Applying an elastic finishing over an elastic finishing. *Prevention:* Rub off lightly with pumice and wash clean with plenty of water. Do not employ the old remedy of interposing a thin coat of flatting varnish. *Cause 3:* An un-

dercoat that has been touched with perspiring hands or begrimed with smoke in the smith-shop. *Prevention*: Clean thoroughly by rubbing with pulverized pumice or rotten-stone. *Cause 4*: Applying varnish to work that is cold, or in a room that is cold or damp.

Crimps or Crimping: Irregularities in surface usually due to imperfect working out of the varnish. Synonymous with "Crinkling," or "Wrinkling," which see.

Crinkling, or Crinkling-up: An appearance resembling the shriveling of the skin in old age. Synonymous with "Wrinkling," which see.

Crumbling: Gradually loss of lustre as the oily constituents are removed, ending in disintegration and complete destruction of the varnished surface. Similar to "Perishing" and "Rusting," which see.

Curtaining: The running or sagging down of varnish, especially about mouldings, in forms resembling curtains and festoons. Synonymous with "Festooning." *Causes*: which sufficiently suggest prevention: (1), Unripe varnish; (2), use of a soft and inelastic brush, producing uneven application; and (3), a slow-drying and elastic varnish insufficiently worked-out or "dressed."

Deadening: One of many shop terms applied to the common and serious trouble where varnish loses its brilliant looking-glass surface, and becomes more or less dull and lustreless. Synonymous with "Sinking-in," which see.

Drawing-up: Synonymous with "Wrinkling," which see.

Enameling: Presenting a fibrous appearance, as of enameled leather. An advanced stage of the same trouble known as "Silking." *Causes*, which sufficiently suggest prevention: (1), Applying varnish in a cold room, or to work that is cold; (2), exposure to drafts of cold air during the process of drying; (3), imperfectly dried undercoats; (4), admixture of turpentine or japan with the varnish; and (5), wet floors in the varnish-room.

Fatty: Coach varnish improves by age up to a certain point, after which it acquires a quality known as "Fatty," and is too

heavy-bodied to use. Exposure to the air from imperfect corking of the can will also thicken the varnish and render it "fatty."

Festooning: Synonymous with "Curtaining," which see.

Fire Checks: A species of cracks, very small and running in every direction, forming squares, triangles and circles, generally first appearing in a flattening coat, but scarcely visible until disclosed by the high lustre of the finishing coat. *Causes:* Lack of harmony between some of the coats, or sudden atmospheric changes. See "Cracking."

Flaking: The partial separation of one varnish coat from another, or from a coat of color, or the similar separation of some preceding coat of paint, roughstuff or filler, resulting in the varnish falling off in small flakes or chips. An advanced stage of "Chipping," which see.

Flattening-out: Losing gloss. Synonymous with "Sinking-in," which see.

Flyey: Injured by flies or other insects. *Prevention:* (1), Fine wire screens in the windows; (2), a dark drying-room off the varnishing-room; (3), standing screens to surround the job when finished; or, (4), inside shutters by which the varnishing-room may be darkened after finishing. Avoid curtains or shades, as they collect dust.

Foaming: Forming small bubbles during the process of working. See "Blubbering."

Foggy, Going: An atmospheric trouble, synonymous with "Blooming," which see.

Frost-Bitten: A variety of the trouble variously known as "Perishing," "Crumbling" or "Rusting" (which see), caused by exposure to intense cold, and especially to storms of sleet, whereby ice is allowed to coat the varnish.

Frost-Checks: Cracks caused by exposure to extreme cold. See "Frost-bitten."

Going-in: Synonymous with "Sinking-in," which see.

Graining: Showing the grain of the wood, owing to imperfect or insufficient undercoats. Synonymous with "Grain-showing," which see.

Grain-showing: A variety of "Sinking-in," wherein the grain of the wood shows through all the undercoats and is plainly distinguishable on the surface of the finishing varnish. *Causes:* The same as those described under "Sinking-in," which see.

Greening, or Turning Green: Giving a greenish effect to the coloring beneath. Similar to "Bluing," which see. *Causes:* (1), Exclusion of light and ventilation; (2), coal-gas or other impurities in the air; and (3), change in color of the paint beneath the varnish, often difficult to distinguish from change in the varnish itself. *Cure:* Frequent washings with cold water, "picking-off" lightly with a moist chamois-skin, and exposure to fresh air will remedy a mild case; but when the body of the varnish has changed color, the only cure is to rub down and re-color and varnish.

Icicing: Applied to a variety of "runs" caused by the sweating of the little nibs that have been rubbed out of the flattening-coat, leaving softer varnish beneath, which shows up through the finishing coat. *Prevention:* Let the job stand and give it a "water rub" the next day.

Laps: Imperfect joining of the varnishing of two panels where the varnish of one overlaps the other, making a double thickness.

Livery, Going: An aggravated case of getting "Fatty," which see.

Lousy: Applied to a varnish when disfigured by small specks, deposited from a dirty varnish brush. *Cause:* Keeping brushes in oil or turpentine. *Prevention:* Use a special brush-keeper varnish in the brush-keeper, and have the latter close tightly. Be careful also to have the brushes hang so as to clear the bottom out of the way of sediment.

Mud Spotting: Loss of lustre in spots, by reason of mud drying upon the varnish, especially while fresh. City mud, containing ammonia, and also the mud of lime districts, is particularly injurious. *Prevention:* Don't run out the job till the varnish is thoroughly hard, which requires more time in summer than in winter. If possible, mud should never be allowed to dry

upon varnish. *Cure*: In mild cases frequent washings with cold water, drying off with moist chamois-skin and exposure to fresh air, will usually restore the lustre.

Peeling: The partial separation of one varnish coat from another or from a coat of color, or the similar separation of some preceding coat of paint or rough stuff, resulting in the varnish peeling or scaling off. Synonymous with "Scaling." The same trouble in its milder forms, is known as "Flaking" and "Chipping." See the latter.

Perishing: Similar to "Crumbling" and "Rusting," which see. Gradual loss of lustre, as the oily constituents are removed, ending in disintegration and complete destruction of the varnished surface. Synonymous with "Crumbling" and "Rusting."

Causes: (1), Exposure to ammonia fumes from the stable; (2), exposure to coal-gas, salt sea-air, or the soil of limestone regions; (3), "frost-bite," or exposure while tender to intense cold and especially storms of sleet; and (4), washing with hot water.

Pimples: Small blisters. See "Blistering."

Pin-holing: Applied to the condition of a varnished surface disfigured by small indentations resembling pin-holes. A mild form of "Pitting," which see.

Pitting: Applied to the condition of a varnished surface disfigured by indentations larger than those characterizing "Pin-holing," which see. *Causes*: which sufficiently suggest prevention; (1), Lack of uniform temperature, and especially change in atmosphere, during process of drying, from dry to damp or warm to cold; (2), mixing two different grades of varnish; (3), varnishing over color or varnish not sufficiently dry or which is "sweaty;" (4), varnishing while the floor is excessively wet.

Note: In summer time the opening of all the windows in the varnish-room will sometimes stop a case of pitting, especially when due to causes 1 or 4. Also when this trouble occurs on a cold, damp day in summer, it may sometimes be checked or cured by starting a fire in the varnish-room.

Pock-marking: Applied to exaggerated cases of "Pitting." See also "Pin-holing."

Puckering: An appearance of irregularities in surface due to imperfect working out of the varnish. Applied to some cases of "Wrinkling" or "Crinkling."

Punky: An English shop-term applied to the greasy gloss usually known as "Sweating," which see.

Ribs: Ridges in the surface caused by the showing up of brush marks on previous coats.

Ropy: Synonymous with "Stringy," which see.

Rotten: Applied to a coat of varnish when in process of disintegration by reason of exposure to ammonia fumes or other destructive agency. See "Perishing."

Runs: Irregularities in surface due to uneven flow of the varnish. *Cause:* Generally due to unskilful handling, and particularly to neglect to properly brush out any excess of application.

Rusting: Gradual loss of lustre, as the oily constituents are removed, ending in disintegration and complete destruction of the varnished surface. Synonymous with "Perishing" and "Crumbling," which see.

Sadding, or Sadding-Down: Synonymous with "Deadening," which see.

Sagged-in: See "Sagging."

Sagging: Applied to an uneven surface of varnish, due to its flowing down. Allied to "Curtaining" and "Festooning," which see.

Sandy: Applied to a varnished surface when it appears as if fine sand or seed had been sprinkled over it. *Causes:* which sufficiently suggest prevention: (1), Unripe varnish; (2), "chilling" of varnish, by recent exposure to extreme cold; (3), skinning of the surface of the liquid varnish; (4), dirt upon the job, as pumice powder; (5), dust present in the air; (6), specks or "lice" in the varnish brush; and (7), precipitation of drier in a varnish due to exposure to cold, or to a chemical change in varnish which is too old. This precipitation may be partially or wholly cured by warming the varnish.

Scratches: Minute lines in a coat of flatting varnish, caused by accidents in rubbing. These are only accentuated by the application of the finishing coat.

Scaling: The partial separation of one varnish coat from another or from a coat of color, or the similar separation of some preceding coat of paint or roughstuff, resulting in the varnish peeling off in scales. Synonymous with "Peeling," which see. The same trouble, in its milder forms, is known as "Flaking," and "Chipping;" see the latter.

Seedy: Applied to a varnished surface when it appears as if fine seed or sand had been sprinkled over it. Synonymous with "Sandy" and "Specky," which see.

Silking: Presenting a fibrous or textile appearance, as of silk. A mild form of enameling. *Causes:* which sufficiently suggest prevention: (1), Applying varnish in a cold room or to work that is cold; (2), exposure to drafts and cold air during the process of drying; (3), imperfectly dried undercoat; and (4), admixture of turpentine with the varnish. "Silking," "Enameling" and "Corduroying" indicate relative degrees or stages of the same trouble.

Sinking-in: One of many shop-terms applied to the common and serious trouble where varnish loses its brilliant, looking-glass surface, and becomes more or less dull and lustreless. *Causes:* which sufficiently suggest prevention: (1), Unseasoned timber; (2), undercoats of paint or varnish imperfectly dried; (3), absorption by dead or porous undercoats; and (4), using varnish immediately from a fresh-opened can.

Skinning: Nearly all varnish will skin over when long exposed to the air; and this skin, if broken up in small particles during application, will make the job go "sandy," "seedy" or "specky." *Prevention:* Exclude air from the liquid varnish; or, if a skin has formed, carefully remove it and strain the varnish through muslin.

Sleepy, Going: English shop-term synonymous with "Deadening," which see.

Smoky, Going: An atmospheric trouble. Synonymous with "Blooming," which see.

Snots: Small but heavy "runs" of varnish, especially about moldings. Synonymous with "Tears," which see. **Cause:** Uneven application of the varnish, followed by insufficient "dressing."

Specky: Synonymous with "Sandy," which see.

Striking-in: Synonymous with "Deadening," which see.

Stringy, or Going Stringy: Sometimes used as a synonym of "Enameling," which see. But usually applied to a thick, ropy quality of varnish while in liquid form, due to imperfect manufacture or to exposure to the air from imperfect corking of cans.

Sweating: The re-appearance of the gloss of a flattening varnish after it has once been removed by rubbing. **Cause 1:** This usually shows that the varnish is elastic and not thoroughly hard. **Cure:** In this case, allow it further time to harden, rub again, and then apply the next coat promptly. **Cause 2:** A flattening varnish is also liable to sweat if applied over color or a previous coat of varnish that is not thoroughly dry. **Note:** As the proportion of oil is increased, so is the liability of sweating; and the most durable varnishes are therefore most liable to give trouble in this respect.

Syssing: An English shop-term synonymous with "Crawling," but more especially applied to this trouble in connection with repair work.

Tears: Small but heavy "runs" of varnish, especially about moldings. Synonymous with "Snots," which see. **Cause:** Uneven application of the varnish, followed by insufficient "dressing."

Withering: Synonymous with "Deadening," which see.

Wrinkling: An appearance resembling the shriveling of skin in old age. Synonymous with "Crinkling." **Causes**, which are sufficiently suggestive of prevention: (1), Unripe varnish; and (2), unskillful handling, and particularly neglect to properly brush out any excess of application.



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